



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Required Report - public distribution

Date: 10/15/2003

GAIN Report Number: KS3063

Korea, Republic of

Planting Seeds

Annual

2003

Approved by:

Grant Pettrie
U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Stan Phillips/Sunchul Choi

Report Highlights:

Imports of grass seed decreased due to declining area of pastureland. However, imports of forage seed have increased to meet demand for green manure crops promoted under government programs. U.S. rye seed exports to Korea are expected to continue to strengthen through 2005 as farmers are encouraged to switch from rice to forage production.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Seoul [KS1]
[KS]

The United States has been a major supplier of grass and forage seeds in the Korean market. In MY 2002, U.S. market share in Korea increased to 56 percent from 48 percent in the previous year on a quantity basis due to an increase in imports of rye and oats. The U.S. presence in the Korean seed market is strengthened by its broad array of seeds, such as: corn, rye, Lucerne seed, clover seed, ryegrass, timothy grass, fescue seed, Kentucky bluegrass, orchard grass, Sudan grass and lawn seed.

First quarter MY 2003 trade data indicate that the United States will continue to be a major supplier of grass, forage and lawn seed in the Korean planting seed market in MY 2003. The Government's "Green Manure Plan" campaign is expected to strengthen import demand for rye seed from the United States through 2005.

The U.S. share of the US\$10 million imported grass and forage seed market stood at 64 percent, on a quantity basis, and 66 percent, on a value basis. The United States' competitive position in the imported grass and forage seed market should remain strong over the next three to five years due to superior seed varieties. In the US\$25 million imported vegetable seed market, the U.S. garnered only a 9-percent share, on a quantity basis, and 5 percent, on a value basis.

Competition from international seed suppliers originates from Australia for oats; from Japan for vegetable seed; and from Canada for rye seed, oat, Lucerne and lawn seed. China competes on the Korean market with Chinese Milk Vetch (within the category of other grasses), herbaceous plants, seed of fruit trees and flowers.

KOREA: MY2002/2003(July/June) Planting Seed Imports (Unit: KG,US\$1,000 based on CIF)				
COMMODITY	FROM WORLD		FROM THE U.S.	
	VOLUME	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE
	KG	US\$1,000	KG	US\$1,000
CORN	284,818	1,965	284,818	1,965
RYE	5,920,260	2,989	4,108,680	2,064
OATS	546,870	235	111,160	58
LUCERNE SEEDS	14,207	40	10,325	32
CLOVER SEED	15,674	48	15,674	48
FESCUE SEED	513,272	679	513,272	679
KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS	157,070	520	157,070	520
RYEGRASS	499,270	650	461,990	594
TIMOTHY GRASS	8,475	15	6,215	11
SUDANGRASS	528,909	814	392,309	674
ORCHARDGRASS	88,716	164	52,896	98
OTHERGRASS	1,383,889	2,566	28,578	110
LAWN SEED	665,657	1,147	643,717	1,009
SUB. TOTAL	10,627,087	11,832	6,786,704	7,862
VEGETABLE SEEDS	2,061,490	24,872	175,414	1,358
HERBACEOUS PLANTS	55,318	1,853	13,670	436
SEEDS OF OTHER FOREST TREE	56,043	269	12,462	43
SEED OF FRUIT TREE	134,514	115	153	22
OTHER	303,015	1,473	94,287	227
SUB. TOTAL	548,890	3,710	120,572	728
TOTAL	13,237,467	40,414	7,082,690	9,948

Source: Korean Customs Service

KOREA: MY2002/2003(July/June) Planting Seed Exports (Unit: KG,US\$1,000 based on FOB)				
COMMODITY	TO WORLD		TO THE U.S.	
	VOLUME	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE
	KG	US\$1,000	KG	US\$1,000
HERBACEOUS PLANTS	377	22	300	10
VEGETABLE SEED	423,804	15,594	25,329	1,689
SEED OF FRUIT TREE	12	89	0	0
SEED OF OTHER FOREST TREE	21,175	198	62	4
LAWN SEED	450	4	60	1
OTHER	77,353	593	137	15
TOTAL	523,171	16,500	25,888	1,719

Source: Korean Customs Service

Korea - Vegetable Seed Production (Kg, Calendar Year)						
Commodity	CY2001			CY2002		
	Total	Local production	Overseas Production 1/	Total	Local production	Overseas Production 1/
White Radish	976,831	321,393	625,438	870,309	397,728	472,581
Chinese Cabbage	210,452	158,849	51,602	210,452	158,849	51,602
Cabbage	34,463	6,623	27,840	71,800	10,730	61,070
Onion	62,206	18,253	43,953	79,984	12,123	67,771
Welsh Onion	186,647	6,325	180,322	150,788	3,975	146,814
Carrot	76,707	867	75,840	91,910	590	91,320
Lettuce	68,389	1,470	66,919	34,494	1,520	32,974
Spinach	151,716	1,620	150,096	136,155	1,576	134,579
Red Pepper	66,898	4,182	62,716	40,514	4,089	36,425
Tomato	1,726	77	1,649	835	22	813
Melon	2,775	873	1,902	1,321	1,093	228
Cucumber	7,287	615	6,672	7,431	1,362	6,069
Water Melon	31,750	3,532	28,218	13,090	2,642	10,448
Squash	23,958	2,061	21,897	11,871	3,030	8,841
Total	1,871,805	526,742	1,345,065	1,637,185	550,733	1,086,452

1/ Korea Seed Association includes overseas production in total vegetable seed production in Korea because local seed companies cultivated the seed abroad and then imported it into Korea.

Source: Korean Seed Association

Korea - CY2002 Vegetable Seed Imports (Kg, US\$)						
	Total Import		Pure Import		Oversea Production	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
White Radish	579,148	2,552,482	106,567	608,856	472,581	1,943,626
Chinese Cabbage	16,573	76,105	54	2,519	16,519	73,586
Cabbage	61,338	1,770,572	268	68,317	61,070	1,702,255
Onion	74,557	5,589,824	6,786	2,038,086	67,771	3,551,738
Welsh Onion	155,698	2,224,765	8,885	235,421	146,814	1,989,344
Carrot	108,347	1,463,392	17,027	417,669	91,320	1,045,724
Lettuce	33,298	310,286	324	26,737	32,974	283,549
Spinach	298,883	1,345,844	164,304	839,581	134,579	506,263
Red Pepper	36,293	1,201,307	0	0	36,293	1,201,307
Tomato	912	1,884,077	98	500,875	813	1,383,202
Melon	228	9,503	0	0	228	9,508
Cucumber	6,510	349,146	441	86,081	6,069	263,065
Water Melon	10,448	438,246	0	0	10,448	438,246
Squash	10,037	256,117	1,196	113,292	8,841	142,825
Total	1,392,463	19,727,482	306,011	5,061,919	1,086,452	14,665,563

Source: Korean Seed Association